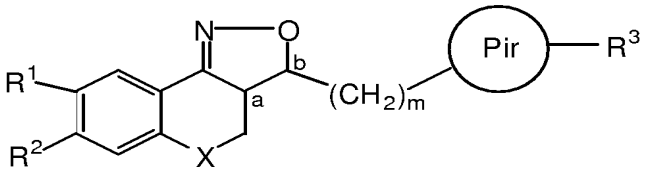
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound according to the general Formula (I)



(I)

the pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salts thereof, the stereochemically isomeric forms thereof and the *N*-oxide form thereof, wherein :

X is CH_2, N-R^7, S or O ;

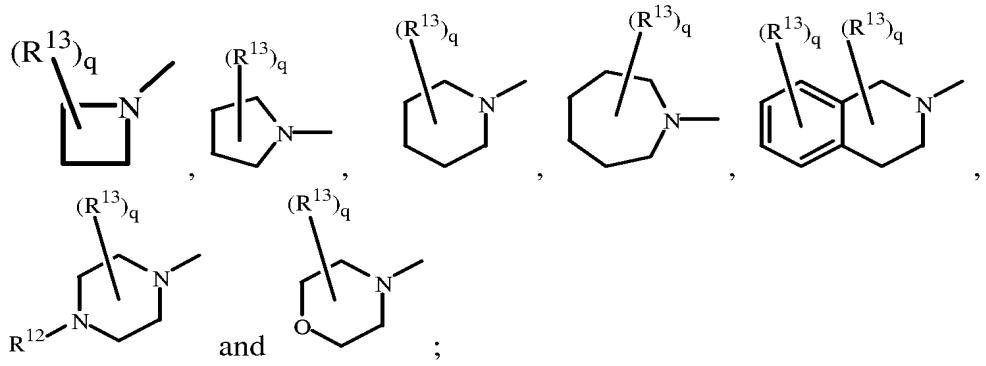
R^7 is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl and mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl ;

R^1 and R^2 are each selected from the group of hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halo, OSO_2H, OSO_2CH_3, N-$R^{10}R^{11}$, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxyalkyloxy, tetrahydrofuranyloxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyloxy, pyridinylcarbonyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyloxy, alkenyloxy, alkenylcarbonyloxy and mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyloxy ;

with the proviso that at least one of R^1 and R^2 is N-$R^{10}R^{11}$ wherein :

R^{10} and R^{11} are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Het, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Het- alkyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyl, mono- or di(alkenyl)aminoalkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkenylcarbonyl, Ar-carbonyl, Het-carbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(Ar)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyloxycarbonylalkyl)aminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, alkenylcarbonyloxyalkyl, mono-or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxyalkyl, aminoiminomethyl, alkylaminoiminomethyl, N-benzylpiperazinyliminomethyl, alkylsulphonyl and Ar-sulphonyl ; or

R^{10} and R^{11} may be taken together and with the N may form a monovalent radical selected from the group of



wherein :

R^{12} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Ar-alkenyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)-aminocarbonyl ;

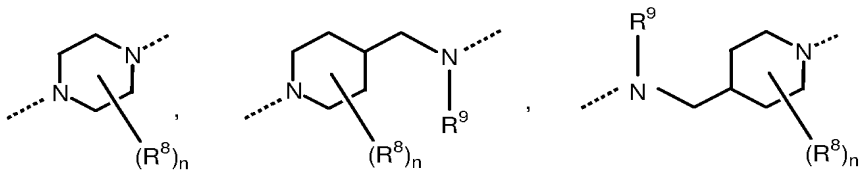
each ring having optionally 1, 2 or 3 double bonds and each ring being optionally substituted with q radicals R^{13}, each radical R^{13} independently from each other selected from the group of alkyl, oxo, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Ar-alkenyl and alkyloxycarbonyl and q being an integer ranging from 0 to 6 ;~~ or~~

~~R^1 and R^2 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical R^1-R^2 selected from the group of $-O-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{14}-CH_2-O-$, $-NR^{15}-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{14}-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{15}-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, wherein R^{14} and R^{15} each, independently from each other, are selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl ;~~

a and b are asymmetric ~~centres~~ centers;

$(CH_2)_m$ is a straight hydrocarbon chain of m carbon atoms, m being an integer ranging from 1 to 4 ;

Pir is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc)



(IIa) (IIb) (IIc)

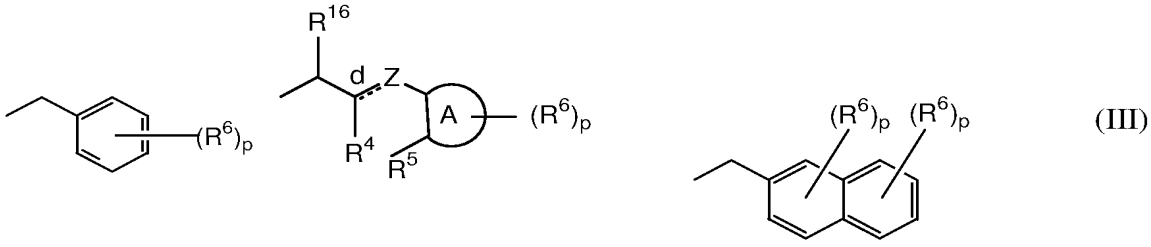
optionally substituted with n radicals R^8, wherein :

each R^8 is independently from each other, selected from the group of hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, halo and alkyl ;

n is an integer ranging from 0 to 5 ;

R^9 is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl and formyl ;

R^3 is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIIa), (IIIb) or (IIIc)



(III)

(a) (b) (c)

wherein :

d is a single bond while Z is either a bivalent radical selected from the group of $-CH_2-$, -C(=O)-, -CH(OH)-, -C(=N-OH)-, –CH(alkyl)-, -O-, -S-, -S(=O)-, -NH- and –SH-; or Z is a trivalent CH-moiety that forms a covalent bond with R^4 equal to alkyl, such that a cycloalkyl moiety is formed ; or d is a double bond while Z is either a trivalent radical of formula =CH- or =C(alkyl)- ; or Z is a trivalent CH-moiety that forms a covalent bond with R^4 equal to alkyl, such that a cycloalkenyl moiety is formed;

A is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic homocyclic or heterocyclic ring, selected from the group of phenyl, pyranyl, pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thienyl, isothiazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, furanyl, oxadiazolyl and

isoxazolyl ;

p is an integer ranging from 0 to 6 ;

R^4 and R^5 are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, biphenyl, halo and cyano ; or

R^4 and R^5 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-R^4-R^5-$ selected from the group of $-CH_2-$, $=CH-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-O-$, $-NH-$, $=N-$, $-S-$, $-CH_2N(-alkyl)-$, $-N(-alkyl)CH_2-$, $-CH_2NH-$, $-NHCH_2-$, $-CH=N-$, $-N=CH-$, $-CH_2O-$ and $-OCH_2-$;

each R^6 is independently from each other, selected from the group of hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, halo, carboxyl, alkyl, Ar, alkyloxy, Ar-oxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthio, mono- and di(alkyl)amino, alkylcarbonylamino, mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxy, mono- and di(alkyl)aminoalkyloxy ; or

two vicinal radicals R^6 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-R^6-R^6-$ selected from the group of $-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-O-CH_2-C(=O)-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-O-$, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-CH=CH-CH=CH-$, $-CH=CH-CH=N-$, $-CH=CH-N=CH-$, $-CH=N-CH=CH-$, $-N=CH-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-C(=O)-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-C(=O)-CH_2-$ and $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$; and

R^{16} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar and Ar-alkyl;

alkyl represents a straight or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a cyclic saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with one or more methyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy or amino radicals ;

alkenyl represents a straight or branched unsatured hydrocarbon radical having one or more double bonds, optionally substituted with one or more methyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy or amino radicals ;

Ar represents phenyl or naphthyl, optionally substituted with one or more radicals selected from the group of alkyl, halo, cyano, ~~oxo~~, hydroxy, alkyloxy and amino; and

Het is a monocyclic heterocyclic radical selected from the group of azetidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, ~~dioxolyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrrazolidinyl,~~ piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, morpholinyl, ~~dithianyl, thiomorpholinyl,~~ piperazinyl, ~~imidazolidinyl,~~ tetrahydrofuranyl, ~~2H pyrrolyl, pyrrolinyl, imidazolinyl, pyrrazolinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, furanyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl,~~ pyridinyl, ~~pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl and triazinyl~~ and benzylpiperazinyl.~~; each radical optionally substituted with one or more radicals selected from the group of alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy and amino.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

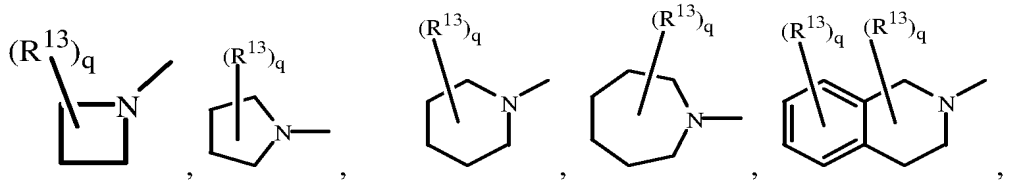
X is O;

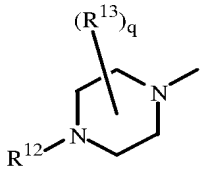
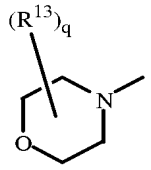
R^1 and R^2 are each selected from the group of hydrogen, N-$R^{10}R^{11}$ and alkyloxy ;

with the proviso that at least one of R^1 and R^2 is N-$R^{10}R^{11}$ wherein :

R^{10} and R^{11} are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Het, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Het- alkyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyl, mono- or di(alkenyl)aminoalkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkenylcarbonyl, Ar-carbonyl, Het-carbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(Ar)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyloxycarbonylalkyl)aminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, alkenylcarbonyloxyalkyl, mono-or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxyalkyl, N-benzylpiperazinyliminomethyl, alkylsulphonyl and Ar-sulphonyl ; or

R^{10} and R^{11} may be taken together and with the N may form a monovalent radical selected from the group of




and

;

wherein :

R^{12} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl and Ar-alkenyl; each ring having optionally a double bond and each ring being optionally substituted with q radicals R^{13}, each radical R^{13} independently from each other selected from the group of alkyl, oxo and alkyloxycarbonyl and q being an integer ranging from 0 to 2 ; ~~or~~

~~R^1 and R^2 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-O-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$ wherein R^{14} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl ;~~

a and b are asymmetric ~~centres~~ centers;

$(CH_2)_m$ is a straight hydrocarbon chain of m carbon atoms, m being an integer equal to 1 ;

Pir is a radical according to Formula (IIa)

R^3 represents an optionally substituted aromatic homocyclic or heterocyclic ring system together with an optionally substituted and partially or completely hydrogenated hydrocarbon chain of 1 to 6 atoms long with which said ring system is attached to the Pir radical and of which may contain one or more heteroatoms selected from the group of O, N and S ;

alkyl represents a straight or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a cyclic saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with one or more methyl or amino radicals;

alkenyl represents a straight or branched unsatured hydrocarbon radical having one or more double bonds, optionally substituted with one or more methyl radicals ;

Ar represents phenyl, optionally substituted with one or more radicals selected from the group of alkyl, halo, cyano, hydroxy and alkyloxy ; and

Het is a monocyclic heterocyclic radical selected from the group of azetidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, N-benzylpiperazinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl and pyridinyl.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according claim 1, wherein R^3 is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIIa), (IIIb) or (IIIc) wherein :

d is a double bond while Z is a trivalent radical of formula =CH- or =C(alkyl)-;

A is phenyl,

p is an integer equal to 0 or 1 ;

R^4 and R^5 are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen and alkyl;

each R^6 is halo; and

R^{16} is hydrogen.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X=O, one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen, methoxy or ethoxy ; m = 1 ; Pir is a radical according to Formula (IIa) wherein n =0 ; R^3 is a radical according to Formula (IIIb) wherein Z is =CH-, d is a double bond, A is a phenyl ring, R^4 is methyl and R^5 and R^{16} are each hydrogen.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methoxy and R^2 is an amine radical $NR^{10}R^{11}$; X=O; m = 1; Pir is a radical according to Formula (IIa) wherein n = 0 ; R^3 is a radical according to Formula (IIIb) wherein Z is =CH-, d is a double bond, A is a phenyl ring, R^4 is methyl and R^5 and R^{16} are each hydrogen.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and, as active ingredient, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) A process for making a pharmaceutical composition, comprising mixing a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and, as active ingredient, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, and one or more other compounds selected from the group of antidepressants, anxiolytics and antipsychotics.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of depression, anxiety and body weight disorders, said treatment comprising the simultaneous or sequential administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, and one or more other compounds selected from the group of antidepressants, anxiolytics and antipsychotics, to a patient in need of treatment.

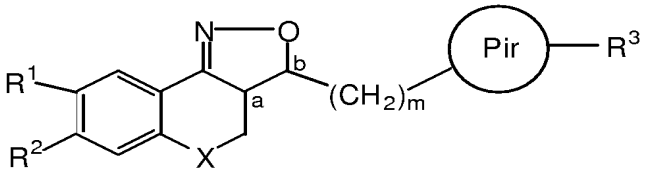
15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising mixing a compound according to claim 1, and a compound selected from the group of

antidepressants, anxiolytics and antipsychotics and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound according to Formula (I),



(I)

the pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salts thereof, the stereochemically isomeric forms thereof and the *N*-oxide form thereof, wherein:

X is CH_2, N-R^7, S or O ;

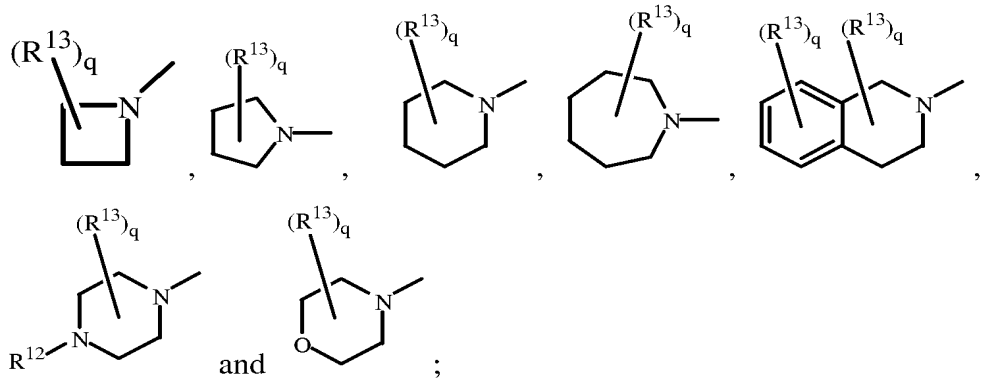
R^7 is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl and mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl ;

wherein at least one of R^1 and R^2 is a halogen and at most one of R^1 and R^2 is selected from the group of hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halo, OSO_2H, OSO_2CH_3, N-$R^{10}R^{11}$, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxyalkyloxy, tetrahydrofuranyloxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyloxy, pyridinylcarbonyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyloxy, alkenyloxy, alkenyl-carbonyloxy and mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyloxy ;

with the proviso that at least one of R^1 and R^2 is N-$R^{10}R^{11}$ wherein :

R^{10} and R^{11} are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Het, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Het- alkyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyl, mono- or di(alkenyl)aminoalkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkenylcarbonyl, Ar-carbonyl, Het-carbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(Ar)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyloxycarbonylalkyl)aminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, alkenylcarbonyloxyalkyl, mono-or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxyalkyl, aminoiminomethyl, alkylaminoiminomethyl, N-benzylpiperazinyliminomethyl, alkylsulphonyl and Ar-sulphonyl ; or

R^{10} and R^{11} may be taken together and with the N may form a monovalent radical selected from the group of



wherein:

R^{12} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Ar-alkenyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)-aminocarbonyl ;

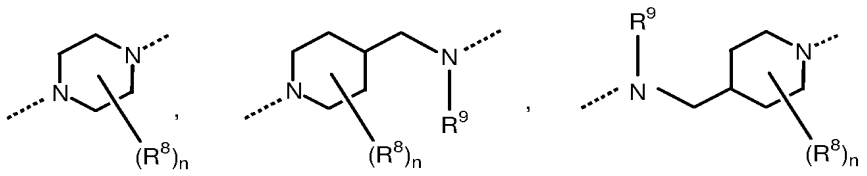
each ring having optionally 1, 2 or 3 double bonds and each ring being optionally substituted with q radicals R^{13}, each radical R^{13} independently from each other selected from the group of alkyl, oxo, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Ar-alkenyl and alkyloxycarbonyl and q being an integer ranging from 0 to 6 ; ~~or~~

~~R^1 and R^2 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical R^1-R^2 selected from the group of $-O-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{14}-CH_2-O-$, $-NR^{15}-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{14}-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{15}-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, wherein R^{14} and R^{15} each, independently from each other, are selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl;~~

a and b are asymmetric ~~centres~~ centers;

$(CH_2)_m$ is a straight hydrocarbon chain of m carbon atoms, m being an integer ranging from 1 to 4;

Pir is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc)



(IIa) (IIb) (IIc)

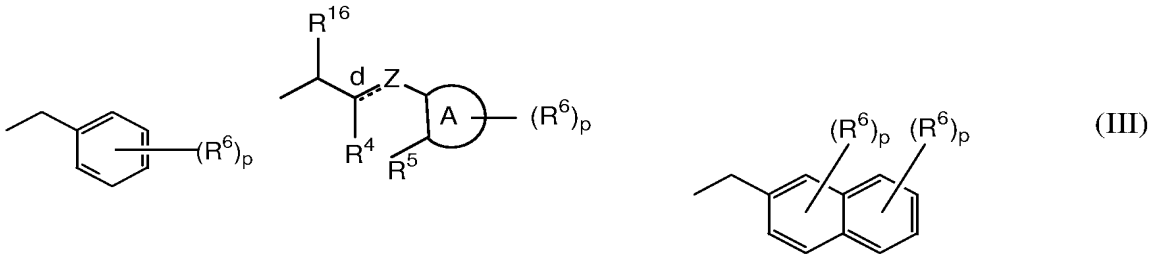
optionally substituted with n radicals R^8, wherein :

each R^8 is independently from each other, selected from the group of hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, halo and alkyl ;

n is an integer ranging from 0 to 5 ;

R^9 is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl and formyl ;

R^3 is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIIa), (IIIb) or (IIIc)



(III)

(a) (b) (c)

wherein :

d is a single bond while Z is either a bivalent radical selected from the group of $-CH_2-$, -C(=O)-, -CH(OH)-, -C(=N-OH)-, –CH(alkyl)-, -O-, -S-, -S(=O)-, -NH- and –SH-; or Z is a trivalent CH-moiety that forms a covalent bond with R^4 equal to alkyl, such that a cycloalkyl moiety is formed ; or d is a double bond while Z is either a trivalent radical of formula =CH- or =C(alkyl)- ; or Z is a trivalent CH-moiety that forms a covalent bond with R^4 equal to alkyl, such that a cycloalkenyl moiety is formed ;

A is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic homocyclic or heterocyclic ring, selected from

the group of phenyl, pyranyl, pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thienyl, isothiazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, furanyl, oxadiazolyl and isoxazolyl ;

p is an integer ranging from 0 to 6 ;

R^4 and R^5 are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, biphenyl, halo and cyano ; or

R^4 and R^5 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-R^4-R^5-$ selected from the group of $-CH_2-$, $=CH-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-O-$, $-NH-$, $=N-$, $-S-$, $-CH_2N(-alkyl)-$, $-N(-alkyl)CH_2-$, $-CH_2NH-$, $-NHCH_2-$, $-CH=N-$, $-N=CH-$, $-CH_2O-$ and $-OCH_2-$;

each R^6 is independently from each other, selected from the group of hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, halo, carboxyl, alkyl, Ar, alkyloxy, Ar-oxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthio, mono- and di(alkyl)amino, alkylcarbonylamino, mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxy, mono- and di(alkyl)aminoalkyloxy ; or

two vicinal radicals R^6 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-R^6-R^6-$ selected from the group of $-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-O-CH_2-C(=O)-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-O-$, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-CH=CH-CH=CH-$, $-CH=CH-CH=N-$, $-CH=CH-N=CH-$, $-CH=N-CH=CH-$, $-N=CH-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-C(=O)-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-C(=O)-CH_2-$ and $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$; and

R^{16} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar and Ar-alkyl;

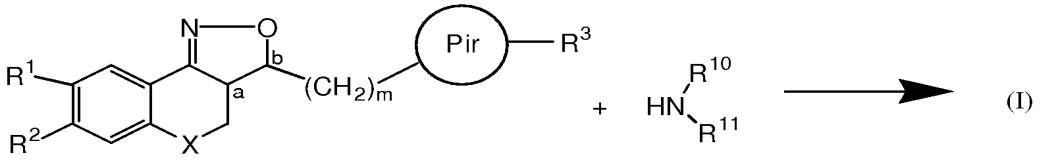
alkyl represents a straight or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a cyclic saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with one or more methyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy or amino radicals ;

alkenyl represents a straight or branched unsatured hydrocarbon radical having one or more double bonds, optionally substituted with one or more methyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy or amino radicals;

Ar represents phenyl or naphthyl, optionally substituted with one or more radicals selected from the group of alkyl, halo, cyano, ~~oxo~~, hydroxy, alkyloxy and amino; and

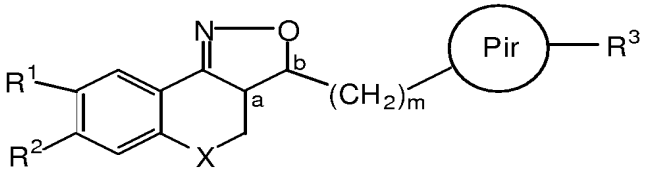
Het is a monocyclic heterocyclic radical selected from the group of azetidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, ~~dioxolyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrrazolidinyl,~~ piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, morpholinyl, ~~dithianyl, thiomorpholinyl,~~ piperazinyl, ~~imidazolidinyl,~~ tetrahydrofuranyl, ~~2H pyrrolyl, pyrrolinyl, imidazolinyl, pyrrazolinyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, furanyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl,~~ pyridinyl, ~~pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl and triazinyl~~ and benzylpiperazinyl; ~~each radical optionally substituted with one or more radicals selected from the group of alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy and amino.~~

wherein a compound according to Formula (IV) is reacted with an amine of Formula (V) according to the following reaction



(IV) (V)

19. (New) A compound according to the general Formula (I)



(I)

the pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salts thereof, the stereochemically isomeric forms thereof and the *N*-oxide form thereof, wherein :

X is O ;

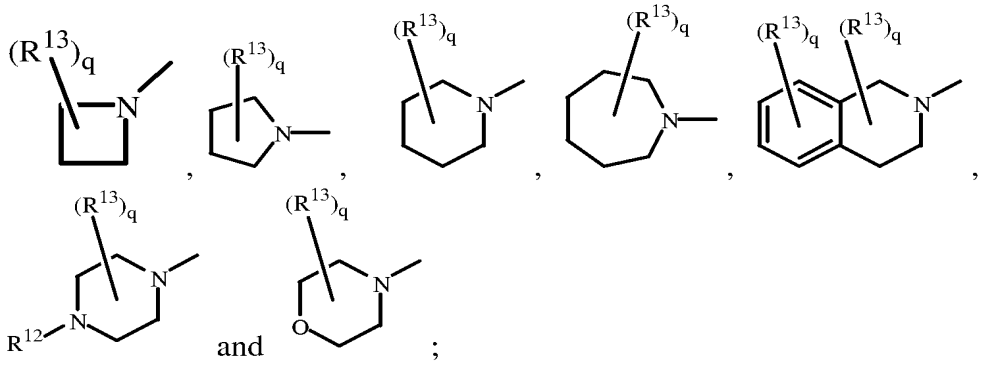
R^7 is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl and mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl ;

R^1 and R^2 are each selected from the group of hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, halo, OSO_2H, OSO_2CH_3, N-$R^{10}R^{11}$, alkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxyalkyloxyalkyloxy, tetrahydrofuranyloxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyloxy, pyridinylcarbonyloxy, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyloxy, alkenyloxy, alkenylcarbonyloxy and mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyloxy ;

with the proviso that at least one of R^1 and R^2 is N-$R^{10}R^{11}$ wherein :

R^{10} and R^{11} are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Het, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Het- alkyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminoalkyl, mono- or di(alkenyl)aminoalkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkenylcarbonyl, Ar-carbonyl, Het-carbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(Ar)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(alkyloxycarbonylalkyl)aminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxyalkyl, alkenylcarbonyloxyalkyl, mono-or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxyalkyl, aminoiminomethyl, alkylaminoiminomethyl, N-benzylpiperazinyliminomethyl, alkylsulphonyl and Ar-sulphonyl ; or

R^{10} and R^{11} may be taken together and with the N may form a monovalent radical selected from the group of



wherein :

R^{12} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Ar-alkenyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)-aminocarbonyl ;

each ring having optionally 1, 2 or 3 double bonds and each ring being optionally substituted with q radicals R^{13}, each radical R^{13} independently from

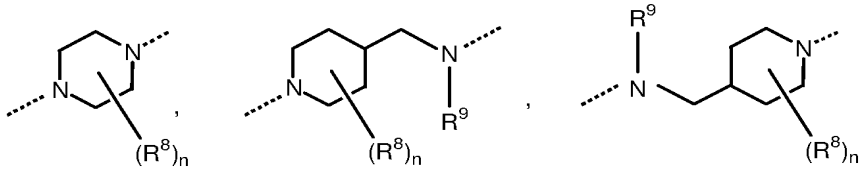
each other selected from the group of alkyl, oxo, Ar, Ar-alkyl, Ar-alkenyl and alkyloxycarbonyl and q being an integer ranging from 0 to 6 ; or

R^1 and R^2 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-R^1-R^2-$ selected from the group of $-O-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{14}-CH_2-O-$, $-NR^{15}-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{14}-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, $-NR^{15}-CH_2-CH_2-NR^{14}-$, - wherein R^{14} and R^{15} each, independently from each other, are selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, Ar-alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkyloxyalkylcarbonyl and mono- or di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl ;

a and b are asymmetric centers;

$(CH_2)_m$ is a straight hydrocarbon chain of m carbon atoms, m being an integer ranging from 1 to 4 ;

Pir is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc)



(IIa) (IIb) (IIc)

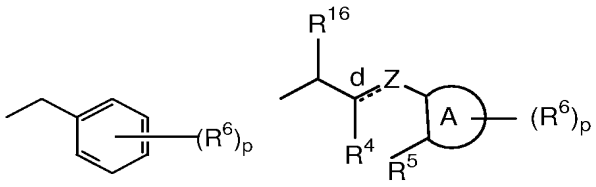
optionally substituted with n radicals R^8, wherein :

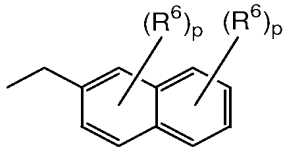
each R^8 is independently from each other, selected from the group of hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, halo and alkyl ;

n is an integer ranging from 0 to 5 ;

R^9 is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl and formyl ;

R^3 is a radical according to any one of Formula (IIIa), (IIIb) or (IIIc)





(III)

(a) (b) (c)

wherein :

d is a single bond while Z is either a bivalent radical selected from the group of $-CH_2-$, -C(=O)-, -CH(OH)-, -C(=N-OH)-, –CH(alkyl)-, -O-, -S-, -S(=O)-, -NH- and –SH-; or Z is a trivalent CH-moiety that forms a covalent bond with R^4 equal to alkyl, such that a cycloalkyl moiety is formed ; or d is a double bond while Z is either a trivalent radical of formula =CH- or =C(alkyl)- ; or Z is a trivalent CH-moiety that forms a covalent bond with R^4 equal to alkyl, such that a cycloalkenyl moiety is formed;

A is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic homocyclic or heterocyclic ring, selected from the group of phenyl, pyranyl, pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, thienyl, isothiazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, furanyl, oxadiazolyl and isoxazolyl ;

p is an integer ranging from 0 to 6 ;

R^4 and R^5 are each, independently from each other, selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar, biphenyl, halo and cyano ; or

R^4 and R^5 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-R^4-R^5-$ selected from the group of $-CH_2-$, =CH-, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, -CH=CH- , -O-, -NH-, =N-, -S-, $-CH_2N$(-alkyl)-, -N(-alkyl)CH_2-, $-CH_2NH-$, $-NHCH_2-$, -CH=N-, -N=CH-, $-CH_2O-$ and $-OCH_2-$;

each R^6 is independently from each other, selected from the group of hydroxy, amino, nitro, cyano, halo, carboxyl, alkyl, Ar, alkyloxy, Ar-oxy, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylthio, mono- and di(alkyl)amino, alkylcarbonylamino, mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- and di(alkyl)aminocarbonyloxy,

mono- and di(alkyl)aminoalkyloxy ; or

two vicinal radicals R^6 may be taken together to form a bivalent radical $-R^6-R^6-$ selected from the group of $-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-O-CH_2-C(=O)-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-O-$, $-O-CH_2-O-$, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$, $-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$, $-CH=CH-CH=CH-$, $-CH=CH-CH=N-$, $-CH=CH-N=CH-$, $-CH=N-CH=CH-$, $-N=CH-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-C(=O)-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-C(=O)-CH_2-$ and $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$; and

R^{16} is selected from the group of hydrogen, alkyl, Ar and Ar-alkyl;

alkyl represents a straight or branched saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a cyclic saturated hydrocarbon radical having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with one or more methyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy or amino radicals ;

alkenyl represents a straight or branched unsatured hydrocarbon radical having one or more double bonds, optionally substituted with one or more methyl, halo, cyano, oxo, hydroxy, alkyloxy or amino radicals ;

Ar represents phenyl or naphthyl, optionally substituted with one or more radicals selected from the group of alkyl, halo, cyano, hydroxy, alkyloxy and amino; and

Het is a monocyclic heterocyclic radical selected from the group of azetidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, morpholinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, pyridinyl, and benzylpiperazinyl.